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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(S): Kazuyoshi Oshima and Katsuya Imai  
APPLN. NO: 09/997,703 CONFIRMATION NO.: 4302  
FILED: 30 November 2001 ART UNIT: 3626  
TITLE: HINGE ASSEMBLY

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Here is a copy of a Japanese reference that may be relevant to the examination of this application. An English language abstract of the reference is enclosed. The reference is listed on the attached Form PTO-SB/08A.

Other commonly assigned applications relating to the same general field of technology are as follows:

- Application No. 09/625,535 entitled "Hinge Assembly With Limited Play"
- Application No. 09/630,893 entitled "Hinge Assembly"
- Application No. 09/717,367 entitled "Hinge Device"
- Application No. 09/740,608 entitled "Hinge Assembly"
- Application No. 09/979,896 entitled "Hinge Assembly"
- Application No. 09/980,533 entitled "Hinge Assembly"

The Examiner's attention is also directed to the Background portion of the application for a discussion of the state of the art in which the invention was made.

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For any questions on this art or the application, the Examiner is invited to call applicants' representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: **FEB 27 2002**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on: *27 Feb. 2002*

Signature: *Sandra Dwyer*  
Date of Signature **FEB 27 2002**

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